

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(81) 144 final

Brussels, 1 April 1981

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)
amending Regulation (EEC) No 458/80 on collective projects for the
restructuring of vineyards

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(81) 144 final

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Council Regulation (EEC) No 458/80, adopted as part of the "action programme for the wine sector" on 18 February 1980, instituted a common measure for the restructuring of vineyards. Experience in applying this Regulation has shown the need for a few amendments of a technical nature to make implementation of the measure more effective.

This proposal provides for the possibility, if the existing structural situation allows it, of new planting or replanting of a part rather than all of the wine-growing area covered by a project. It is also proposed that there should be a time limit for carrying out projects.

Adoption of this proposal will not lead to any increase in estimated expenditure on this measure.

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

amending Regulation (EEC) No 458/80 on collective projects for the
restructuring of vineyards

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,
and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission¹,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament²,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee³,

Whereas it follows from Articles 2 and 5 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 458/80⁴, that the implementation of a restructuring project involves the replanting and, in appropriate cases and within the limits laid down, the new planting of the whole wine-growing area covered by the project; whereas, however, in certain cases where the existing structural situation so permits, the purpose of a restructuring operation may also be achieved by the replanting or new planting of only a part of the wine-growing area; whereas the provisions in question should be amended to allow for this possibility, so that the measure may be implemented more effectively; whereas such an amendment makes it necessary to specify that the restructuring aid and the maximum number of hectares given in Article 8 refer to the area where replanting or new planting is actually carried out;

¹OJ No C

⁴OJ No L 57, 29.2.1980, p. 27

²OJ No C

³OJ No C

Whereas, in order to accelerate the restructuring of vineyards, a time limit for carrying out restructuring projects should be laid down;

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EEC) No 458/80 is hereby amended as follows:

1. Article 2 shall be replaced by the following:

"Article 2

1. For the purposes of this Regulation, 'a collective project for the restructuring of vineyards' means any project involving the replanting of vines undertaken by growers under a binding agreement concluded between them.

However, the project may also include new planting if it is technically essential for improving the effectiveness of the restructuring measures and if it conforms with Articles 30, 30b, 30c and 30 e of Regulation (EEC) No 337/79.

This new planning may not exceed:

- 10% of the area of new planting or replanting intended for the production of quality wines psr.
- 10% of the area of new planting or replanting intended for the production of table wines.

2. The agreements between growers referred to in paragraph 1 shall lay down the conditions governing the planting of vines and associated operations, providing in particular for rationalization of work and of the use of machinery.

3. A collective restructuring project must cover:

- (a) in the case of quality wines p.s.r., a sufficient area of restructured vineyard to ensure that the objectives of Article 3 are fulfilled;
- (b) in the case of table wines, an area of not less than 100 hectares of vineyard which has been replanted or newly-planted in accordance with a restructuring plan established for the whole of the restructured vineyard, made up of unbroken wine-growing plots which are in principle not less than two hectares each.

However, where natural growing conditions relevant to the project make it impossible to have unbroken plots of the minimum size of two hectares, that part of the wine-growing area which does not comply with the criteria laid down in the first subparagraph must not exceed 10% of the wine-growing area covered by the project.

4. For the purposes of this Regulation, 'new planting or replanting' means any planting of vines undertaken in accordance with the corresponding definition given in Annex IVa to Council Regulation (EEC) No 337/79.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 4 concerning the planting of vines also apply to restructuring operations carried out within the context of Directive 78/627/EEC."

2. The following shall be added to Article 3:

"(d) be completed with 10 years of the date of approval thereof by the Commission."

3. Article 5 shall be replaced by the following:

"Article 5

1. Aid in respect of the restructuring of vineyards shall be granted in the form of a premium per hectare of vineyard newly-planted or replanted.

2. The Member State concerned shall fix the amount of the premium at between 2 418 and 3 022 ECU per hectare of vineyard replanted on the basis of the structural situation and the cost of the work involved in restructuring the vineyard.

However, to take account of special situations, Member States may exceed the upper limit referred to in the first subparagraph.

In the case of new planting, the premium may not exceed 2 418 E U per hectare of vineyard."

4. Article 8 shall be replaced by the following:

"Article 8

1. With the exception of the extra premium granted pursuant to the second subparagraph of Article 5 (2), expenditure incurred by the Member States under the measure provided for in this Regulation in connection with projects which have been approved in accordance with Article 7 shall be eligible for financing by the Guidance Section of the Fund, up to a limit of 223 800 hectares of newly-planted or replanted vineyard.

2. The Guidance Section of the Fund shall refund to the Member States 30% of the eligible expenditure."

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

It shall apply from 1 September 1980.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
The President